THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) Subject to availability of funds, construction of Deptt. buildings can be taken up only where it is considered justified to do so.

Appointments on compassionate Grounds in P & T Department

3339. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one dependent of the employees who dies in harness is eligible to be appointed on compassionate grounds in the same department in the grade according to his/her qualifications.

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that such dependents in Telecommunication department have to wait for two-three years for appointment, some time for want of vaccines or some other reasons;

(c) if so, whether in such cases the dependents of the deceased official can retain the Government quarter paying the normal licence fee as per rules till one of the dependents is appointed on compassionate grounds; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. When a govt. servant dies in harness leaving his family in indigent circumstances, then one dependent is eligible for consideration for compassionate appointment.

(b) Since any appointment is against a vacancy only, non-availability of vacancy leads to such delays.

(c) and (d) The families of the deceased employees are permitted to retain the Government quarters for six months on payment of normal licence fee and for further four months on payment of enhanced licence fee.

Handing over of public sector units to private sector

3340. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas being considered for handing over to the private sector from the public sector;

(b) whether such recommendations have been tabled by official or semi-official quarters and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for which labour participation is not implemented from top to bottom to improve the performance of the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Government has neither marked any areas being considered for handing over from public sector to private sector nor have taken any policy decision to hand over any of the public sector units to private sector.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To the extent possible, workers' participation in management at various levels have been implemented in a large number of public sector enterprises.

Elections to the Joint Negotiating Committee of BHEL

3341. SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that elections to the Joint Negotiating Committee in the BHEL were last held in 1978;

(b) whether the rules of the Joint Negotiating Committee require that elections be held once in every two years;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which the elections have not been held for the last nine years;

(d) whether several unions have demanded the immediate holding of elections;

(e) if so, whether Government would direct the BHEL management to act on their demand; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The first meeting of the Joint Committee reconstituted pursuant to the elections in the different units was held in March, 1978. At the time of reconstitution it was jointly agreed that the tenure of the committee would be two years.

(c) Due to lack of consensus in the labour side regarding made of determining the representation, it has not been possible to reconstitute the Committee.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The company has been advised that the Joint Committee has been functioning on a voluntary basis and a solution to the problem of representation may be found by the management through consultation with the parties.

Posting of husband and wife at the same Station

3342. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines for the posting of husband and wife at the same station issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions are being followed in practice by both the Departments of Posts and Telecommunications;

(b) if so, whether any percentage of vacancies has been earmarked for observance of these guidelines;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether application from the persons covered under this policy for posting at the same stations are invited before making promotions|transfers *inter-alia* from persons promoted to Junior|Senior scales of Posts and Telegraph Accounts and Finance service group 'A'; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir, as far as it is administratively practicable.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Earmarking of vacancies for such categories of officials is not possible as the demands for various stations cannot be foreseen. However, all such requests are considered keeping in view the individual as well as public interest.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Applications are not invited as there is no percentage of vacancies reserved for such cases.

Telegrams Delivered by Post

3343. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the percentage of telegrams delivered by post in urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): The percentage of telegrams delivered by post during 1987-88 for the entire country is 0.6. The percentage figures for urban and rural areas are not maintained separately.

Booking Orders for power equipment by BHEL

3344. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of booking orders by BHEL as far as power equipment is concerned; and

(b) whether it is a fact that it is starved of orders?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) BHEL has got orders totalling to 10,600 MW for Thermal and Hydro Power equipment.

(b) The major portion of the above orders will be executed during 1988-89 and 1989-90. Steps have been taken to